(b) The value of exports of these items during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Basic Chemicals | Pharmaceutical Items |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 11648 | 15213 |
| 2004-05 | 14219 | 17857 |
| 2005-06 | 17986 | 21578 |

(c) With a view to increase exports and earn foreign exchange, duty free import of raw materials required for production is allowed alongwith neutralization of taxes and duties as per provision of Foreign Trade Policy. Besides under Market Access Initiative (MAI) and Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Schemes financial assistance is given to exporters for promotion of exports.

**Package for development of cash crops sector in Kerala**

3. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI; Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any proposal for a special package for the development of cash crops sector from the Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, details of the proposal therein and the action taken by the Government; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND iNDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government has received a proposal from Government of Kerala for revival/rejuvenation of various agricultural crops which also included proposal for revival of plantation crops in Kerala. The Union Cabinet has, on a proposal made to the Agriculture Department, already approved a special rehabilitation package in this regard for farmers in 31 disturbed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Cabinet has also approved *the* approach suggested by the Agricultural

Department with respect to rejuvenation of plantations, paddy lands and coconut cultivation in Alappuzha and Idukki districts of Kerala.

**Employment to farmers in SEZs**

†4. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones established in different States under SEZ rules fo far;

(b) the number of people likely to get employment in such Zones;

(c) the number of Special Economic Zones likely to be established during the next five years; and

(d) whether provisions have been made to provide employment to the farmers whose land have been acquired for the establishment of Special Economic Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIJAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Prior to enactment of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act and SEZ Rules in February, 2006,15 SEZs were functional in the country. Further 44 SEZs have been notified under the SEZ rules so far.

(b) Presently, these SEZs are providing employment to 1,27,953 persons. As per projections employment opportunities for about 5 lakh persons are likely to be generated in the SEZs by December, 2007.

(c) It is not possible to project the number of SEZs likely to be established during the next five years.

(d) As per the conditions of the Letter of Approval issued by the Central Government, the SEZ Developer is required to make adequate provision for rehabilitation of the displaced persons.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.